

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/780,978

Applicant(s)

GILL, HARDAYAL SINGH

Examiner

William J. Klimowicz

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on September 8, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Drawings

The drawings filed on February 14, 2004 are acceptable subject to correction of the informalities noted *infra*. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

Figures 1A, 1B and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the Applicant's arguments and amendments presented in a response filed September 8, 2006, the Examiner has been persuaded that the claims previously rejected, are in fact allowable.

The prior art of record fails to fairly, teach, show or suggest, by either anticipating or rendering obvious, the invention as set forth in the claims of the instant application.

Moreover, it is worth noting that independent claims require "a high coercivity layer positioned towards the AP pinned layer structure" (e.g., see claim 1, lines 8-9; claim 6, line 9; claim 11, line 11; claim 15, line 10).

None of the cited prior art of record teaches, shows or suggests a “high coercivity layer positioned towards the AP pinned layer structure” in association with the claimed relationship set forth in independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 15.

Li et al. (2005/0111148 A1, after closer examination, merely uses a conventional *antiferromagnetic* layer for pinning the AP pinned layer structure. Antiferromagnetic layers do not have appreciable coercivity levels, and thus cannot be said in any reasonable manner to correspond to “a high coercivity layer positioned towards the AP pinned layer structure.”

Furthermore, an update of a search previously made does not detect the combined claimed elements as set forth in the pending claims. Additionally, the reasons for allowance of the claims over the prior art of record is believed to be clear from the prosecution history taken as a whole, in view of the previous rejections based on the applied prior art, supplemented by the reasons espoused by the Applicant in the Response filed on September 8, 2006, as to why the prior art fails to read on the claims of record. In view of the arguments and amendments and Examiner’s additional comments, *supra*, the Examiner has determined that the scales of patentability, based on the preponderance of the evidence, tip slightly in favor of the Applicant. That is, based on a preponderance of the evidence, the Applicant’s arguments, the application of the art, and the record as a whole, the rejections previously made by the Examiner are more likely than not, unsustainable, for the reasons articulated by the Applicant’s Response filed on September 8, 2006.

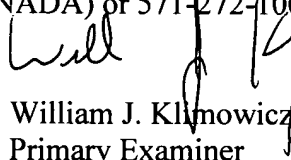
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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William J. Klimowicz whose telephone number is (571) 272-7577. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (6:30AM-5:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Thi Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300:

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


William J. Klimowicz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2627

WJK